



Saguaro National Park News Release

13-20

For Immediate Release

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Saguaro National Park April Program Schedule

Saguaro National Park is offering special hikes and talks this spring that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history, a few are listed below. To view the full list of programs see the park's Website at www.nps.gov/sagu or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (west, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

April 13 9:00 a.m. – 5:p.m. Civilian Conservation Corps Recognition Day
FULL DAY SPECIAL EVENT!

Join an archaeologist for a walking tour of a CCC location, watch movies, listen to speakers, and enjoy historical displays as part of a tribute to the work of the CCC, a Great Depression era work program responsible for construction in many of our national parks. Admission to Saguaro National Park, Tucson Mountain District, is free for the day; no reservations are needed for events in Red Hills Visitor Center. For reservations for CCC camp tours, call 520-733-5158 after April 6.

April 5, 12, 19, 26 10:45 a.m. The Plants Tell All Hike: Up to 1½ hours and 1½ miles

April 4, 11, 18, 25 1:15 p.m. No lip-syncing here. The real deal, straight from the plants, as told by a biologist and naturalist. Find out what lichens like, why buckwheats turn red, where bagworms hang out, and what makes the saguaro happy. Questions are welcome on this informal tour to explore what is out there.

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:15 p.m. Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril Talk: 45 minutes

Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 2, 9 9:45 a.m. Discovering Desert Connections Walk: 1 hour, ½ mile

Surprise! It's not the Sahara. The Sonoran Desert is a unique, vibrant concoction of plants and animals, from tiny "belly flowers" to majestic saguaros. Look high and low on this easy walk of discovery.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 3:15 p.m. Whales in the Desert Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 3, 10, 17, 24 10:45 a.m. Petroglyphs: Communications Etched In Stone Talk: 30 minutes

The Hohokam people carved and pecked symbols into stone, leaving meanings still subject to speculation centuries later. What is the current thinking about the meanings of petroglyphs, and what might have indigenous people been communicating? *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 4, 11 2:15 p.m. Geology of the Tucson Mountains Talk: 45 minutes

The Tucson Mountains used to be part of the Santa Catalinas. A geologist explains how they separated and what is shaping the Tucson Mountains today. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 5, 12, 19, 26 3:15 p.m. Lizards: Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool Talk: 30 minutes

Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (east, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

April 2 & 9 3:00 p.m. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert *Presentation*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 4, 11 & 18 9:00 a.m. Rangering with a Ranger 2.5 Mile Guided Hike

Come explore and exercise with a park ranger to discover some of the finest hiking destinations in the Rincon Mountains. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended

April 4, 11, 18 & 25 2:00 p.m. Cactus Caravan *Auto Tour*

Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 4, 11 & 18 3:00 p.m. Candid Camera *Presentation*

Where are the mountain lions? Join park staff to view real video and candid snapshots of wildlife, right here at Saguaro National Park! You will find out about recently discovered species and discuss the loss of habitat of some of our large mammals.

April 5 10:00 a.m. Habitat, Sweet Habitat

Could you find food, water, shelter in the Sonoran Desert? Wildlife Can! Find out how on this one mile walk into a rugged desert habitat in search of animal homes. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

April 5 10:30 a.m. Cowboys in the Rincons 2.5 Mile Guided Hike

Explore the history and nature of the Rincon Valley on this 2-hour, 2 ½-mile hike, where homesteaders and ranchers met, when cowboys and *vaqueros* roamed the saguaro forests and mountain heights. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended. **MEET AT LOMA ALTA TRAILHEAD.**

April 6, 13 10:30 a.m. Walk with the Saguaros 1 Mile Guided Walk

Join a naturalist for this 2-hour, 1-mile easy walk to discover the many fascinating facts about the Saguaro cactus. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

April 7 & 14 10:30 a.m. Arizona Rainforest *Easy Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist for this 90 minute stroll along a desert wash. We'll identify the trees of the cactus forest and learn how essential rain is to the abundant life of the Sonoran Desert. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

April 7 & 14 2:00 p.m. Park History 101 2 Mile Hike

A hike down memory lane. Join park ranger Arlo Ogden on a two mile, two hour hike to discover some of the unique history of Saguaro National Park. Trails and topics change weekly.

April 11 11:00 a.m. Wildflowers and Pollinators *Presentation*

Join desert naturalist and author Pinau Merlin in the visitor center auditorium for an exciting look at spring wildflowers and who's out there pollinating them.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpsa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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